



August 10, 2004

414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

Mr. Robert A. Schroeder, Chair  
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board  
658 Cedar Street, Room 300  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Xcel Energy's Application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for a Route Permit from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for a 345 kV Transmission Line, Two 115 kV Transmission Lines, and the expansion of the Wilmarth Substation, which will connect to the proposed Mankato Energy Center**  
**MEQB DOCKET NO. 04-86-TR-XCEL**

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation, doing business as Xcel Energy, hereby makes application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) pursuant to Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400 and Minnesota Statutes Chapter 116C. The three transmission lines that are the subject of this application are necessary to interconnect the proposed Mankato Energy Center power plant to the Xcel Energy electrical transmission system at the Wilmarth Substation. Mankato Energy Center, LLC has included the transmission lines as facilities directly associated with the plant in its filing for a certificate of need with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The particular facilities for which the permit is being requested include:

- A 1000 foot 345 kilovolt (kV) line from the Wilmarth Substation to the proposed Mankato Energy Center;
- Two 1000 foot 115 kV transmission lines from the Wilmarth Substation to the proposed Mankato Energy Center;
- The expansion of the 115 kV section of the Wilmarth Substation;
- The addition of equipment in the 345 kV section of the Wilmarth Substation.

Included with this filing are three copies of the application as required by Minn. Rules part 4400.1025 Subp. 1. Additional copies will be made available to EQB staff upon request after acceptance of the application. Also included is a CD containing an electronic version of the application.

The initial permit fee of \$9,000 will be sent to the EQB under separate cover. If there are questions regarding the application, please contact Pam Rasmussen at 715-839-4661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Erickson'.

Kimberly Erickson  
Director, Transmission Business Relations